

What is claimed is:

1 1. A cooking stove, comprising:
2 a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;
3 a substructure for supporting said shell;
4 a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure; and
5 a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack defining
6 a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel
7 having a substantially flat lower surface,
8 said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a
9 second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower
10 surface;
11 wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with
12 either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing
13 upwardly.

1 2. The stove of claim 1, wherein said second vessel-supporting surface is
2 substantially concave.

1 3. The stove of claim 2, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to
2 support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.

- 1 4. The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has a plurality of spaced-apart
2 alignment openings formed therein, and wherein said vessel support rack has a
3 plurality of projections thereon which fit into said alignment openings, whereby said
4 vessel support rack can be stably supported on said shell.
- 1 5. The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises a plurality of
2 interconnected support brackets.
- 1 6. The stove of claim 5, wherein each of said support brackets has a first
2 projection on said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side
3 thereof.
- 1 7. The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one
2 metal ring interconnecting a plurality of support segments.
- 1 8. The stove of claim 1, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-
2 adjustable legs.
- 1 9. The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has a plurality of vent holes formed
2 therein to admit combustion air.
- 1 10. The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion
2 formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.

1 11. A cooking stove, comprising:
2 a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;
3 a substructure for supporting said shell;
4 a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure, at least
5 part of said burner assembly being disposed inside of said shell; and
6 a vessel support rack for engaging placement on said shell, said vessel support
7 rack comprising a plurality of interconnected support segments which cooperate to define
8 a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel
9 having a substantially flat lower surface,
10 said support segments further cooperating to define a second vessel-supporting
11 surface on a second side of said vessel support rack for supporting a cooking vessel
12 having a substantially non-flat lower surface;
13 wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with
14 either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing
15 upwardly.

1 12. A cooking stove, comprising:
2 a hollow shell comprising a plurality of spaced-apart alignment connectors
3 configured to receive mating connectors of a vessel support rack;
4 a substructure for supporting said shell;
5 a burner assembly, at least part of which is disposed within said shell; and

6 a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack
7 comprising a plurality of interconnected support brackets which cooperate to define a
8 first, substantially planar vessel-supporting surface on a first side of said vessel support
9 rack, said support brackets further cooperating to define a second, substantially concave
10 vessel-supporting surface on a second side of said vessel support rack which is
11 substantially opposite said first side thereof;

12 said vessel support rack further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart mating
13 connectors on said first side thereof which are alignable with said alignment connectors
14 of said shell; and a plurality of spaced-apart mating connectors on said second side
15 thereof which are alternately alignable with said alignment connectors of said shell;

16 whereby said vessel support rack is installable in aligned relation to said shell
17 with either said first side or said second side thereof facing upwardly.

1 13. The stove of claim 12, wherein each of said support brackets has a first
2 projection on said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side
3 thereof.

1 14. The stove of claim 12, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one
2 metal ring interconnecting said support brackets.

1 15. The stove of claim 12, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-
2 adjustable legs.

1 16. The stove of claim 12, wherein said housing shell has a plurality of vent holes
2 formed therein to admit combustion air.

1 17. The stove of claim 12, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion
2 formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.

18. An invertable vessel support rack for placement on a stove, said vessel support rack
defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel
having a substantially flat lower surface,

said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second
side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface;

wherein said vessel support rack is configured to fit on a stove with either said first
vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly.

1 19. The vessel support rack of claim 18, wherein said second vessel-supporting
2 surface is substantially concave.

20. The vessel support rack of claim 19, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to
support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.